



The Webb County Link

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Important Dates

- * 6/2 Judge Tijerina's State of the County Address
- * 6/2 Worker's Comp Training
- * 6/6 Jury Duty
- * 6/8 JP, Pct. 4 Night Court 5pm—8pm
- * 6/9 Safety Committee Meeting
- * 6/13 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am
- * 6/15 Webb County Health Fair
- * 6/16 New Employee Orientation
- * 6/20 Jury Duty
- * 6/27 Commissioners Court Meeting 9:00am

Rio Bravo Soccer Field Ribbon Cutting



About one hundred children joined Webb County Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa, Pct. 1, for a ribbon cutting ceremony for Rio Bravo's first synthetic turf soccer field. The \$189,000 facility is a first of its kind in the community. "It bothered me that our kids had to travel to other places in Laredo to play their soccer games. They had no home field advantage like the other teams," said Commissioner Sciaraffa. With the lack of a field, children from Rio Bravo and El Cenizo traveled as far as the Mines Road area for games and practices. The field is located behind Rio Bravo's Activity Center. Commissioners Court has already approved funding for a similar project behind La Presa Community Center in Mangana Hein.

Women Build Day



Commissioner Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina partnered with Habitat with Humanity and many women volunteers for Women Build Day. Staff members from both Commissioner Pct. 2 and Commissioner Pct. 4 also volunteered their time to improve the lives of our community. Women Build Day kicked off Habitat for Humanity's Women Build Week, a weeklong event created by the Women Build program that invites women to devote at least one day to help families build strength, stability, and independence through housing.

Hero Salute Month

For the past six years the Hero Salute Month Project, spearheaded by Commissioner Jaime Canales and staff, has offered events and activities that provide camaraderie opportunities for veterans that have served in all branches of the military and access to information on services and resources available to them and their families. It continues to grow every time adding new events to the month-long event. The month of May 2016 was selected for the display of patriotism. Webb County implemented Red T-Shirt Fridays, hosted Military Culture Workshops, held a Thank You Hero campaign, and hosted the 6th Annual Hero Salute Luncheon and the 2nd Annual Hero Salute Legal Assistance Event.



For the first time in Webb County history, Military Culture Workshops, taught by Gerardo Alvarado Peer Assistant Coordinator at the Border Region Behavioral Health Center, were held in an effort to educate staff members from the different departments throughout Webb County on the Military Culture that service members experienced with the goal to provide the best customer service experience to Veterans who visit these offices. It served as a reminder that a few extra minutes of our time and energy can make a world of a difference for local veterans and their families.

During the 6th Annual Hero Salute Month Luncheon, Webb County Commissioner Jaime Canales proudly held this luncheon to honor and remember those who gave their lives in defense of freedom. Special performances and recognitions were given out to all those who tirelessly work to improve the lives of our veterans.



In efforts to ensure that the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform are never forgotten, Commissioner Canales' office reached out to those who depend on them the most and who the future depends on, the youth. After sharing some stories with students at the elementary, middle and high schools about our local heroes, not only were they thankful, but they were inspired. The kids worked on special framed messages that were given to attending veterans of the Hero Salute Luncheon. The framed message served as a reminder of the special place veterans hold in the hearts of those they put their life on the line for.

The 2016 Hero Salute Legal Assistance Event was an event where local attorneys donated their time to assist U.S. Veterans with legal services as a salute to them for their service to our country. Last year, the attorneys contributed over \$58,000 in legal services. Veterans received services such as standard and living wills, power of attorney, medical power of attorney, notary services and legal consultations at no cost to them.





Law Enforcement Torch Run

Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina and Commissioner Frank Sciaraffa joined forces with local area law enforcement officers to kick off the Special Olympics Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run from Laredo to Arlington for the Special Olympics Texas Summer Games. The run will result in a 436 mile journey. The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

Community Center Event Roundup



La Presa Community Center members celebrated May the 5th with sombreros, Mexican dresses, mariachi music and more. Texas A & M Colonias Program and Cigna Health also joined the fun with loteria and fun prizes.



Bruni Community Center's elderly enjoyed a hearty Mother's Day Luncheon with Pct. 2 Commissioner Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina at the Golden Corral Restaurant.



Congratulations to ANSPAC of **Larga Vista Community Center** for the achievements of these persistent women who completed the Women Improvement Program.



The Children Advocacy Center provided the **Santa Teresita Community Center** with a presentation titled "The Woman in Me". The presentation touched base on women's health topics.



The **Fernando A Salinas Community Center** recognized Mr. Salvador Vasquez, a veteran that served in the Armed Forces from 1968-1974 and 13 months in the Vietnam War. He is employed with AARP and stationed at the center.



Kids at the **Ladrillito Activity Center** continue to expand their knowledge. The center offers homework assistance, computer labs, tutoring, and many more activities to cultivate the minds of these future leaders.

Submit your department stories for next month! E-mail your story along with any pictures to webbpio@webbcountytx.gov. Stories will be edited for style, grammar, and length. Please be advised that, due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that all stories will be publicized.



Electrical Safety Training

The Webb County Administrative Services department held a training on electrical safety to a packed room of attendees. Mr. Chago Villarreal from AEP showed attendees the shocking truth when improper electrical and digging procedures are followed. He encouraged the attending departments to practice safe electrical and excavating practices not only at work, but also at home.



National Police Week Proclamation

Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina, City of Laredo Mayor Pete Saenz, Sheriff Martin Cuellar, and representatives from various law enforcement agencies came together to celebrate National Police Week. National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

District Attorney Reports On Bluntson Sentencing

The District Attorney's Office reports that Demond Dupree Bluntson has been assessed the death penalty for killing two children at a local hotel.

On Monday, April 18, 2016, opening statements began in the capital murder trial of Demond Dupree Bluntson before the 49th District Court Judge Joe Lopez. During his opening, District Attorney Isidro R. Alaniz went on to show jurors a photo of Devian and Jayden and told them the reason they were all there were for those two boys. The jury of eight women, four men and four alternate jurors were presented with physical, scientific and medical evidence during the guilt/innocence phase of the trial. The District Attorney's Office also presented videos and audio recordings of the events that led up to the fatal shootings during the testimony of 12 witnesses.

In the closing arguments of the guilt/innocence phase, District Attorney Isidro R. Alaniz stated to jurors, "You will arrive at the only verdict that is possible and that is that Demond Bluntson is guilty of all counts." On Thursday, April 21, 2016, the jury deliberated for over three hours rendering their guilty verdict on two counts of capital murder and two counts of aggravated assault on a public servant. The jury had to take into consideration all the evidence, including the circumstances of the offense and Bluntson's character and background.

During the closing arguments of the punishment phase, the State provided an outline to detail the events that lead to the two murders in Laredo from June 16th to June 19th. First Alaniz asked the jury to give Brandy Cerny and her two kids justice. "He thinks and believes he is smarter than the system and he is going to try to get away with whatever he can," Alaniz said. "He is cold, callous and manipulative. Demond Bluntson earned the death penalty."

District Attorney Isidro R. Alaniz, First Assistant District Attorney Marisela S. Jacaman, Assistant District Attorneys Philip Del Rio, Cristina Alva and Julia Rubio and Law Clerk Alvaro Aguirre prosecuted the case for the State.





GEO Scholarships

Webb County Judge Tano Tijerina and Commissioner Wawi Tijerina joined with GEO Group warden Dwight Sims and district officials to present Letters of Commitment to students from LISD, UISD, St. Agustin High School and the Webb Consolidated School District. In 2007, the GEO Group made a commitment to Webb County to contribute \$25,000.00 per year for four years, to be used for scholarships for area students. After the four year commitment, The GEO GROUP has continued to provide \$25,000.00 every year, on a year-to-year basis, raising the scholarship contribution to \$250,000.00 thru this year. The amount awarded was divided among all area high schools. Selection of scholarship recipients is left up to each school's scholarship committee or senior counselor, with minimum criteria being financial necessity and proof of enrollment to an institute of higher learning.

GEO Scholarships

Commissioner Rosaura "Wawi" Tijerina and the Larga Vista Community Center partnered up with the South Texas Food Bank to launch the Larga Vista Kids Café Backpack Program. The program will provide 60 children with a backpack with non-perishable food items so the children can have additional meals over the weekend. The backpacks will be filled by the Larga Vista Community Center staff with the non-perishable food items given by the South Texas Food Bank. The distribution will happen once a month to begin the program with the hopes of expanding the program in the future.



Pretrial Services Conference



Webb County Director of Pretrial Services Cornell Mickley recently attended the 2016 Texas Association of Pretrial Services (TAPS) Conference. Mr. Mickley, who serves as the TAPS Western Region Representative, had the opportunity to meet with Will Longoria, Bexar County Judicial Services Program and Training Manager and TAPS Southeast Region Representative, and Senator John Whitmire of Texas to discuss important pretrial services topics. TAPS is a newly established, non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of pretrial services within the State of Texas. TAPS was established on January 14, 2014, during a conference attended by nearly a hundred pretrial professionals from all over Texas.

Pueblo Nuevo Cleanup Campaign



The Webb County Road & Bridge Department rolled up their sleeves and took to the streets of Pueblo Nuevo in a cleanup campaign designed to not only improve the quality of life of the residents, but also to protect the environment for future generations.

